

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE:

THRU:



TO: Ralph C. Pickard

Earl A. Bohner

FROM: John L. Winters

SUBJECT: 1984 CORE Station Fish Contamination Results

Attached is a summary of the results of tissue analysis of fish from most of the CORE stations sampled in 1984. As we had previously suspected, dieldrin no longer appears to be a problem, and chlordane problems may be declining. However, the PCB problem is increasing at the St. Joseph River station downstream from South Bend, and, for the first time, we have found violations in fish collected from the Maumee River downstream from Ft. Wayne.

While we do not know why these problems are occurring, we are of the opinion that, in light of this development, it is a poor time to eliminate reporting requirements for PCB spills from transformer failures. Until the material and contaminated soil is actually picked up and placed in drums there is always a threat for it to be carried into a stream by a rainfall.

One pint of PCB entering a waterbody could theoretically raise about 500,000 lbs. of fish above the FDA action level if they contained only a trace to begin with. If the fish averaged 1.5 ppm, before the material entered the environment nearly 2,000,000 pounds could be raised above the action level by a single pint of PCB.

cc: SHB
Skip Powers

1984 CORE STATION FISH SAMPLE RESULTS
WHOLE FISH BASIS

<u>Station</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>PCB</u>	<u>Chlordane</u>	<u>Dieldrin</u>
White River at Winchester (WR-350)	Carp	0.508	0.131	0.019
	Carp	0.960	0.951*	0.025
Wabash River at Bluffton (WB-426)	No. Hog Sucker	0.167	0.057	0.050
	Carp	0.217	0.073	0.015
Kankakee River at Kingsbury (KR-125)	Carp	0.179	0.02	0.031
	Shorthead redhorse	0.237	0.213	0.084
	Quillback Carpsucker	0.913	0.274	0.074
St. Joseph River at Fort Wayne (STJ-0)	black redhorse	0.731	0.058	0.029
	golden redhorse	0.655	0.02	0.010
	rock bass	0.684	0.033	0.012
Maumee River at Fort Wayne (M-116)	carp	1.896	0.291	0.035
	carp	2.104*	0.212	0.030
	channel catfish	2.844*	0.283	0.051
St. Joseph River at Bristol (SJR-78)	carp	0.361	0.02	0.006
	shorthead redhorse	1.106	0.048	0.008
	rock bass	0.366	0.02	0.003
St. Joseph River below South Bend (SJR-46)	carp	12.075*	0.420*	0.021
	shorthead redhorse	3.256*	0.272	0.020
	smallmouth bass	2.490*	0.113	0.008
Trail Creek at Michigan City (TC-.3)	carp	1.115	0.322*	0.017
	common white sucker	0.302	0.050	0.007

*indicates exceedances of FDA action levels